REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **February 4, 2004**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-21, and 23-27. Claims 1-2, 7-11, 16-20, and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kennedy et al. (USPN 5,675,818, hereinafter "Kennedy"). Claims 3, 5-6, 12, 14-15, 21, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy in view of Davis et al. ("Unicode Technical Standard #10, Unicode Collation Algorithm," hereinafter "Davis").

Objections to the claims

Claims 6, 15, and 24 were objected to because of informalities.

Applicant has amended claims 6, 15, and 24 to include the correct spelling of hexadecimal. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 10, and 19 were rejected as being anticipated by Kennedy. Applicant respectfully points out that Kennedy teaches **using auxiliary tables** to determine expansion of certain characters (see Kennedy, col. 9, line 14 to col. 10, line 10).

In contrast, the present invention is directed to **reading additional portions of the primary value** for a character from the secondary and tertiary weight fields without having to use auxiliary tables to determine expansions for characters (see page 8, lines 17-25 of the instant application).

Furthermore, reading additional portions of the primary value for a character from the secondary and tertiary weight fields is beneficial because it facilitates encoding larger character sets, for example for Chinese characters, within the collation element.

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Since each different primary weight value corresponds to a different character, increasing the size of the primary value increases the number of characters that can be represented by the collation element. Note that Kennedy does not allow such an expansion in the number of characters that can be represented. There is nothing within Kennedy, either explicit or implicit, which suggests reading additional portions of the primary value for a character from the secondary and tertiary weight fields to make the primary value of the character the full value of the collation element.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to clarify that the present invention reads additional portions of the primary value for a character from the secondary and tertiary weight fields without having to use auxiliary tables to determine expansions for characters. These amendments find support on page 8, lines 17-25 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 19 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-3 and 5-9, which depend upon claim 1, claims 11-12 and 14-18, which depend upon claim 10, and claims 20-21 and 23-27, which depend upon claim 19, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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